



News Release from Congressman

ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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SIMMONS ADDRESSES BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES

Union Leaders, Rank-and-File Open Arms To Pro-Labor Republican



WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today addressed the Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD) at their annual legislative conference in Washington, DC.

During his speech to nearly one thousand union leaders and rank-and-file members, Simmons touched upon the following themes:

ON BEING AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN: “I am proud to be a pro-labor Republican. Last year, the White House said they were going to privatize Social Security. I said ‘no,’ and the issue’s dead! Several years ago the Administration asked for fast track trade promotion authority. And I said ‘no’ again. And I said ‘no’ to CAFTA.”

ON WORKING WITH LABOR IN CONNECTICUT: “They say all politics is local, and it is, and I’m proud of the fact that I’ve been working with Building and Construction Trades in the state of Connecticut to bring more and better jobs to our economy. Under the transportation bill, \$55 million to the construction trades. I have worked with the Connecticut Laborers and the University of Connecticut to make sure our workers have the opportunity to build that great university, the home of the UCONN Huskies!!!!”

ON A STRONG DEFENSE: “Defense is important to Connecticut and to our country. We have Electric Boat, we have Pratt & Whitney, we have Sikorsky. In my position on the Armed Services Committee we’ve been able to bring billions of dollars of contracts to these defense contractors for good quality manufacturing and construction jobs.”

ON FIGHTING FOR AMTRAK: “The administration zeroed out funding for Amtrak. I joined with my pro-Labor Republican colleagues and lobbied for Amtrak, and we were able to restore \$1.2 billion. We need to keep the trains running, and we need to improve the infrastructure of our trains.”

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ON FIGHTING FOR DAVIS-BACON: “When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, the administration canceled Davis-Bacon prevailing wage benefits for construction on the Gulf Coast. That was wrong and should not have happened. So I joined with my Republican Pro-Labor Caucus and met with the President’s Chief of Staff, and within two weeks we got an agreement that they would restore Davis-Bacon protection to all construction jobs in the region. When working men and women in the Gulf Coast got hit by the worst storm in our history, they did not need to be hit with a suspension of Davis-Bacon as well.”

ON BEING CONNECTICUT’S ONLY MEMBER OF TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: “I am honored to be the only member of the Connecticut delegation to serve on the Transportation Committee. I’ve been there six years, serving on the Railroad Subcommittee and the Highway Subcommittee, and I’ve worked hard to put Davis-Bacon into the transportation bill. The transportation bill brings \$287 billion to our transportation infrastructure, and I am told that for every billion dollars in transportation money, you create or sustain 27,500 jobs. At a total of \$287 billion, the transportation bill sustains or creates more than 13.5 million jobs. That’s a good bill for us and a good bill for America.”

ON THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL ENERGY PLAN: “I support an energy plan for America, I support a strong energy policy. I have voted for every energy bill that has passed over the last five years that I’ve been in Congress. We need more energy; we need you to help us get more energy. We need more oil, we need more gas, we need more nuclear power, and we need to be building it, now.”

ON BEING A CITIZEN IN ACTION: “Over the next few days, you will be working on Capitol Hill. Bear in mind one thing: members of Congress work in fancy offices, and walk fancy corridors with marble, expensive paintings and golden chandeliers. But according to my copy of the Constitution, this government belongs to We the People! This is not a politician’s city; this is the people’s city. This is not a politician’s Congress; this is the people’s Congress. The men and women in the Building and Construction Trade built this city, built our Capitol. And as taxpayers, we all paid for it. So, when you go door-to-door to spread the word, spread the word with strength. Speak truth to power. Good luck, God bless you, and God bless America.”

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